

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide additional funding for the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide additional funding for the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Public Health Service
5 Commissioned Corps Operations and Readiness Act” or
6 the “PHS COR Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FUNDING FOR COMMISSIONED CORPS OF THE PUB-**
2 **LIC HEALTH SERVICE.**

3 Section 203 of the Public Health Service Act (42
4 U.S.C. 204) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(e) OPERATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONED CORPS OF
7 THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to regulations pre-
9 scribed by the Secretary, the Deputy Surgeon Gen-
10 eral shall carry out duties and responsibilities relat-
11 ing to the operations of the Commissioned Corps of
12 the Service, including the following:

13 “(A) Enhance the processes and systems
14 of the Commissioned Corps Headquarters.

15 “(B) Maximize the force management,
16 operational capacity, and mission readiness of
17 the Regular Corps, the Ready Reserve Corps,
18 and the Public Health Emergency Response
19 Strike Teams, a subcomponent of the Regular
20 Corps.

21 “(C) Recruit and retain qualified profes-
22 sionals suited to serving underserved and vul-
23 nerable communities by—

24 “(i) enhancing onboarding timelines,
25 providing officer placements to align with

1 agency needs, and incentivizing recruiters
2 and recruits; and

3 “(ii) expanding training opportunities,
4 providing credentialing support for high
5 demand skill sets, and enriching leadership
6 and research potential.

7 “(D) Improve deployment processes and
8 prepare mission teams to execute routine and
9 emergent public health events.

10 “(E) Establish a legislative liaison office to
11 carry out legislative affairs functions under the
12 direction of the Deputy Surgeon General.

13 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
14 addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be ap-
15 propriated for the Commissioned Corps of the Serv-
16 ice, there is authorized to be appropriated to the
17 Deputy Surgeon General to carry out paragraph (1)
18 \$150,000,000 for fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal
19 year thereafter.”.